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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 27th February 1956.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI N. GOPALA MENON) in the Chair.

I.—EXPRESSION OF SORROW AT THE DEATH OF SRI G. V. MAVLANKAR, SPEAKER OF THE LOK SABHA.

MR. SPEAKER : It is now my painful duty to inform the House of the death of Sri G. V. Mavlankar, Speaker of the House of the People, New Delhi, on 27th February 1956. It may be that many of us have not been in actual contact with his work. I had the exceptional privilege during the last Speakers' Conference of having associated myself with him for a few days and I can convey to you that he was in every sense of the word an ideal Speaker and a great parliamentarian.

He was born on 27th November 1888; he was a practising lawyer in Ahmedabad. He was also closely associated with the civic activities of Ahmedabad. I remember that, when he visited Madras some years ago and when he was accorded a civic reception by the Corporation, he was able to tell us about the normal civic activities which citizens ought to pursue; also we knew at the time the deep and abiding interest that he was taking in civic affairs.

After leaving Ahmedabad, he associated himself with many national activities. He was Chairman of the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Fund. He took an exceptionally notable part in the famine relief work in 1918. He was also a Trustee of the Harijan Ashram. He was Speaker of the Bombay Legislative Assembly and it is needless for me to tell you how well he conducted himself as Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It was exceedingly interesting to see him conduct the affairs of Parliament especially during question time. I know that when he was presiding over the Speakers' Conference many of us went to him to seek advice on matters over which we felt some doubts. The genial attitude, he took, the way in which he was receiving many of us in his own Chamber, and was discussing with us and was offering solutions for those problems that were placed before him, were all matters for which we shall always cherish an abiding gratitude.

I do not want to say more about Mr. Mavlankar, except to say that we in this House and in this State are deeply grieved over his death. From this morning's note in the newspapers, I thought that somehow or other, he would recover; but we must bow down to the dictates of the Supreme. All that we can now do, is to convey to the members of the bereaved family our deep sorrow at the demise of Sri Mavlankar.

By way of expressing our sorrow and showing our respect to the departed soul, I request hon. Members to stand in their places in silence for two minutes.

(The House stood in silence for two minutes.)

MR. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect to the deceased I now adjourn the House for thirty minutes and we shall re-assemble at 11-45 of the clock.

The House then adjourned.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

11-45 a.m. MR. SPEAKER : With the leave of the House, the question hour will be restricted to 12-15 p.m.

Death of a person under Police custody in Tambaram

* 3118 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Sadanandam died while in Police custody at Tambaram in Chingleput district in June 1955;

(*b*) the circumstances under which the death took place; and

(*c*) whether any enquiry was conducted, and if so, the findings thereof?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) It is not true to say that Sadanandam died while he was under Police custody at Tambaram. On the afternoon of 6th June 1955, this person was brought to the Police station at Tambaram for interrogation. As it was found that he was seriously ill, he was taken from the Police station to the General Hospital, Madras, for treatment, where he died during the early hours of 7th June 1955.

(*c*) Yes, an inquiry was held by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Chingleput. His report goes to show that Sadanandam died as a result of poisoning by nitrate and that the Police were not responsible for his death.

(Questions Nos. 3119 and 3120 taken together.)

Draft rules under the Plantation Labour Act, 1951

* 3119 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 1739 on 31st March 1955 when the State Government would finalise the draft rules proposed to be made under section 43 (1) of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951?